

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

Transition services are provided via a process of identifying and documenting needs, strengths, interests and preferences of an individual student and linking these with resources in the areas of training, education, employment and community participation.

The recent reauthorization of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) now requires a *summary of performance* report that provides the student a report of his/her academic achievement and functional performance and includes recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting postsecondary goals.

There are a number of reasons why the *summary of performance* report is a good idea. For one thing, it can provide a type of summative evaluation that should lead to “better” transition planning. This should result in increased family, school and community dialogue that will provide greater continuity in obtaining transition services for students with disabilities. This will help close gaps that might currently exist in the planning and implementation process.

By providing recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting his/her postsecondary goals, the *summary of performance* report can also serve as a “bridge” that addresses the “next steps” necessary to complete the transition process that has been ongoing for several years. It should clearly state to the student, this is what YOU need to do to continue to work toward realizing your goals after your school program has ended.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the requirement to provide a *summary of performance* should lead educators to get better at preparing students with disabilities to become self-advocates. The *summary of performance* report serves as a means to transfer the responsibilities of securing employment, training or education, living arrangements, and support services to the student, and the student needs to be prepared to assume these responsibilities.

The *summary of performance* report is to be completed in the last year that the student will be receiving educational services (the year in which the student is to graduate from high school or the year in which the student becomes ineligible for special education services due to reaching the maximum age requirement). It is recommended that the report be completed at the final case conference committee meeting prior to the student’s exit from the school program.

During the spring of 2006, special education directors were provided with a format for the *summary of performance* as well as instructions on how to assist the student in completing the information. Please talk to your teacher or transition coordinator for a copy.